

compelled him to suspend for a time the expression of his last wishes. All our efforts to induce him to desist from a labor which produced such serious consequences were unsuccessful. "I am very much exhausted," said he, "but am convinced that I have little time left, and that I must complete my task. Give me a little of that Constantia which Las Cases sent me; a little excitement will do me no harm." I ventured to remark that that wine was very different from that which Dr. Antonnarchi had prescribed for him. "Bah!" said he, striking his forehead, "neither he nor you understand anything about it: we want every support in this country. Why should you wish to see me remain here? give me some of that wine; it will restore me. I do not desire to shorten my life, but I would do nothing to prolong it. Ah!" said he, placing his hand upon his right side, "I feel here as if a razor were cutting me."

Everything that was said by the Emperor was full of dignity, of resignation, and of goodness; the bed upon which he sat was covered with articles carefully sealed up and destined for his son and family. Among the number was a gold snuff-box, with a very beautiful cameo, which he bequeathed to Lady Holland, as a token of regard and grateful acknowledgment of the solicitude which this lady had manifested for the illustrious captive, in sending those little trifles always so well appreciated, and of which we are doubly sensible in the hour of misfortune. There was also a plain gold snuff-box which he intended for Dr. Arnott, upon which he scratched with a pen-knife the letter N. A small sheet of pasteboard which he held in his left hand served him for a writing-desk. Count Moritholon stood near his bed with an inkstand. Near him was a diamond necklace. Napoleon took it up, and giving it to me said, "Keep this; I do not know what may be the state of my pecuniary affairs in Europe; that amiable creature Hortense gave it to me when I left Malmaison, thinking that it might be useful to me.¹ Its value is, I believe, 200,000 francs; conceal it about your person. When you return to France it will enable you to wait for what I desire to give you by my Will and Codicils. Make an honorable marriage: choose your wife from among the families of officers or soldiers of my old Guard. There are many of those brave fellows who are not in good circumstances; better fortune awaited them but for the reverses which France has experienced. Posterity will give me credit for what I would have done to serve them if events had taken another course." After a short pause he sealed up his various Wills and Codicils to the number of nine separate packets, all nearly of a similar form, but of different thickness, folded at one of the four corners, tied up

¹ This collar had a curious history. Given by Hortense to Napoleon when he left Malmaison, Napoleon had privately handed it to Las Cases while on the passage to St. Helena, telling him to take care of it. Las Cases kept it always under his clothing (Napoleon several times telling him to retain it), and he got so accustomed to wearing it that, when removed from Longwood in 1815, he forgot to give it back to the Emperor, and it was only by means of a kindly Englishman that Las Cases got it secretly conveyed to Napoleon (*Memorial de St. Hélène*, tome i. pp. 80-82 note).